

TOWN Reminder

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Serving the town of South Hadley

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Motorized vehicles prohibited

SOUTH HADLEY – All motorized vehicles, including all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) and dirt bikes, are prohibited on conservation areas owned by the town of South Hadley, according to a press release from the Planning and Conservation Department.

Illegal use of ATVs and motorized dirt bikes at the town-owned Bynan Conservation Area and the Bachelor Brook-Stoney Brook Conservation Area have been observed in recent weeks.

The town received multiple complaints about damage to trails on the property as well as adjacent private property by ATVs and dirt bikes.

Please contact the South Hadley Conservation Administrator with any information you may have about the individuals riding ATVs and/or dirt bikes at these properties, and where they are coming from/accessing the property.

Both the South Hadley Police

Please see **VEHICLES PROHIBITED**, page 4

A pillar of the region



Tucked between the farmland of Hadley, the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts has supplied local food pantries with millions of meals.

Photo by Dalton Zbierski

Communities rely on Food Bank of Western Mass during pandemic

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

REGION – During in the best of times, the Food Bank of

Western Massachusetts is one of the region's most important community pillars. Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, the operation has taken on even greater responsibility.

The food bank operates out of a bustling 35,000 square foot warehouse in Hadley, employs approximately 45 workers and oversees the delivery of food

items to pantries and kitchens spread throughout four Massachusetts counties.

As the pandemic threatens the financial and food security of thousands of residents, the food bank has stood tall, extending lifelines to many.

"In May of 2019, in terms

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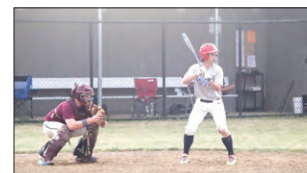
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Fall sports in limbo

South Hadley Rec. Department updates BOS

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

SOUTH HADLEY – South Hadley Recreation Director Andrew Rogers came before the Selectboard last week to discuss the summer programs being led by the department and the impact the novel coronavirus has had on previously scheduled activities.

“We are gearing up for some fall sports. The release of Phase III, Step 1 was really quite depressing I think for

many. The higher risk sports of football, wrestling, soccer, basketball and lacrosse had basically no change,” said Rogers.

The fall sports slate doesn’t look promising for South Hadley youths. Even with the loosening of restrictions that were announced on July 6, youth sports programs have been given little clarity.

Last Monday, the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) released a stringent string of guidelines for sports activities as part of Phase III, Step 1 of the state’s re-opening plan. The EEA designated more than a dozen sports as being either low-risk, moderate-risk or high risk.

Golf, tennis and swimming are all

considered as low-risk activities. Moderate-risk sports include baseball, softball, field hockey, cross country and volleyball while sports such as football, soccer, basketball lacrosse and hockey were all deemed as high-risk.

On July 7, Rogers addressed the Selectboard and updated the town officials on the current state of the Recreation Department. He recapped the impact of the pandemic on spring sports and other department-led activities.

“It’s certainly an interesting time in recreation due to COVID-19. We lost our spring sport program; so far to date we’ve issued 487 refunds and have a number of people who have left some money in their account to transfer to a future program,” said Rogers.

The department was additionally forced to cancel spring and summer bus trips to see the Boston Celtics, Boston Red Sox, New York City and James Taylor perform at Tanglewood, a music venue in the Berkshires.

Rogers mentioned on a positive note that many of the town’s outdoor recreational facilities and locations are doing well. Ample signage has been posted at each, encouraging residents to adhere to safety protocols.

“I’ve been pretty happy with the opening of our green spaces; basketball courts, athletic fields and things like that. I know that many communities still have the rims off the hoops and have saran wrap on their playground and things like that,” said Rogers.

The town’s spray parks are open each day from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., except during inclement weather.

The turf field and track at South Had-

ley High School on Newtown Street is also being frequently used.

Two popular summer programs have been impacted by the pandemic. Swimming lessons traditionally held at the public pool inside of Michael E. Smith Middle School will not occur, and a tennis camp held each summer at the Mount Holyoke College Tennis Courts is likely to be cancelled.

Many other summer activities have also been called off because of COVID-19, Rogers explained.

“The traditional camps and programs are really out this summer. Without access to bathrooms and with the regulations, they’re just not feasible or profitable for the groups that are trying to do them,” he said.

Art-ventures for Kids and Mad Science will still be held virtually. Michele Lyman, owner of Serenity Yoga, is also leading yoga lessons every Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday at the Town Farm Athletic Fields on Rt. 47.

On an important note, Rogers stressed that it is imperative for residents to pick up their garbage when they visit town parks and trails. In order for those sites to remain open, cooperation is necessary.

“One big thing that the Parks Department has really been pushing is trash and people taking out what they bring in,” said Rogers. “We do have barrels out. If people are going to use our spaces and our spaces are open, it’s really critical that people do pick up after themselves when they are here for the enjoyment of everybody who’s there.”

Dalton Zbierski is a Staff Writer and can be reached at dzbierski@turley.com.

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CONTINUING THE CONVERSATION

Gundersen talks SROs

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

SOUTH HADLEY – South Hadley Police Chief Jennifer Gundersen addressed the South Hadley School Committee during its July 6 meeting to address the current state of the district’s Student Resource Officers (SRO) and discuss the future of their roles.

“We currently have two officers assigned to the SRO position and have had an SRO for over a dozen years,” said Gundersen. “It was 2018 that we added a second SRO because our one SRO was really stretched very thin; he was trying to be responsive at all of the schools.”

Gundersen was not with the department at the time of the decision but relayed that the addition was made to allow an SRO to have a greater presence at Michael E. Smith Middle School. The size of the student body at South Hadley High School had made it difficult for the lone SRO to be consistently present in other school buildings.

“When I think of the SROs, it comes to this relationship we have between the police department and the school district. It’s about cooperation, communication and confidence,” said Gundersen.

She said SROs facilitate a stronger sense of communication between school leadership, families, students and the police department. From her perspective, SROs are committed to the schools because the schools are committed to the town.

“It’s about building confidence on both sides so that the police have confidence to how the schools will respond

to issues of concern,” said Gundersen. “Likewise, and maybe even more vital, the schools are going to have confidence on how we at the police department will respond if we have an incident that requires some intervention on behalf of the police department.”

Gundersen made it clear that the SROs are not present in the schools to serve as disciplinarians. They are stationed in each building as positive role models; Gundersen considers them to be “guardians.”

Furthermore, Gundersen believes that the “least important role that they play is the safety role; the armed police officer role.” She considers the SRO to be “another concerned adult in the school who has training, knowledge and a commitment to the school to ensure the safety.”

While Gundersen is concerned and disappointed regarding national incidents of police brutality, she is hopeful that the town will not act in a “reactionary” manner.

Despite letters that the town has received, Gundersen feels as though it is an improper time to remove SROs from the district.

“I don’t think this is the time to remove us from the school I think this is the time to further embrace us and further engage with what we can do within the schools and the police department to address racism within our community. I think this should be an opportunity for us to act, and I don’t want us to react without being thoughtful on that,” said Gundersen, who hopes to better educate the public on what the police department aims to achieve in the schools.

School Committee member Allison

Schlachter noted that the SRO also plays a role in preventing cyberbullying.

“An important part of having the SRO in the building when these really critical things happen, is being able to advise parents to get on those accounts and watch and intervene. It can save lives,” she said. “My understanding is that if there was a threat online or kids go into crisis, something the SRO can do is see if that student has a registered gun in the home.”

Gundersen said the matter is taken very seriously and parents involved in the process right away.

She touched on the fact that there have been eight incidents from 2018 to 2020 which were referred to a court system, four of which were one student.

“They have what they call ‘in school incidents,’ which are generally crimes then they have ‘events,’” Gundersen said. “An event can be a crisis a student was having... We really try to divert youth from the criminal justice system, but sometimes we need a little bit of assistance.”

School Committee Chair Kyle Belanger said he was impressed by Gundersen’s presentation. He thanked the Police Chief and voiced his opinion that public conversation will allow the town’s SROs to play a more positive and impactful role going forward.

“I’m only one member of the committee, but I do look at this as the beginning of a conversation. I don’t anticipate that there will be any actions. I think that we are all in this to be educated and to learn and look at it long term,” said Belanger.

Dalton Zbierski is a Staff Writer and can be reached at dzbierski@turley.com.

GCAM to host office hours

GRANBY – GCAM will be holding Virtual Office Hours throughout July to hear Granby’s voice in regard to what goes on Channels 12 and 15.

“We want to hear the community’s questions, concerns, and comments,” said Program Coordinator Alex LaMarche. “We can’t wait to talk to everyone.”

Granby residents and stakeholders can either log onto the Zoom Webinar or simply view on GCAM’s Facebook page.

Thursday, July 23, 2020 at 1 p.m.
Access Code: 836 4877 4202
Passcode (case-sensitive): 2uSutx
Friday, July 31st, 2020 at 6 p.m.
Access Code: 870 3119 1973
Passcode (case-sensitive): 2bnH1B

Granby to-go seeks donations

GRANBY – The Granby To-Go program is asking for your help with donations of children’s washable masks for students in the Granby To-Go Program.

We have donation boxes located at Sapowsky’s Farm and also at Class Grass in Granby.

These masks will be distributed before the start of school in August.

Thank you for all of your continued support for this amazing program.

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Students take the lead in social justice

South Hadley Student Union to host vigil Aug. 1

By Melina Bourdeau
Staff Writer

SOUTH HADLEY – With racial justice in mind, a newly formed student group is spending their summer taking action in the South Hadley School District, beginning with a vigil on Aug. 1.

The South Hadley Student Union was created by students and now have a mission statement, social media presence and the approval of the school district to begin making “fundamental changes.”

In an interview earlier this week, members of the group as well as School Committee Chair Kyle Belanger, School Committee member Allyson Garcia and interim South Hadley High School Principal Liz Wood spoke about the importance of the group forming when it did.

Rising junior Sophie Kennedy explained why she became involved in the formation of the student union.

“I noticed causal racism was constantly being ignored and ignorance was constantly being ignored. I decided that had to change and this change is long overdue,” Kennedy said. “People need to be educated and listen which is the whole point of this union. We want to amplify voices of color

in our town.”

The union has elected a board and Kennedy said the majority of the student body supports the union’s mission.

The group’s mission statement states these students “have noticed an environment in which ignorance and casual racism are repeatedly ignored within our community.”

With the aim of “chang(ing) this by engaging in educational talks and discussing the racial injustices occurring all around us,” the South Hadley High School Student Union, desires for every student to feel safe.

Using social media, the students have created a Google document for anonymous submissions from staff, students and alumni.

Student union member and rising senior, Maggie Rahilly explained the purpose of the anonymous form.

“We’re a mostly white population at South Hadley High School and we wanted to give people a space to tell their stories,” she said. “We can take those personal stories and share them to show them what’s been going in the school.”

Wood said the timing of the group’s formation was perfect – having followed training for faculty and staff. She added the change will be district wide.

“It’s so important for us at the high school to be leaders in this movement,”

Wood said. “Change had to happen from within. I say this all the time, there are more students than adults, so they can effect change at such a higher level. One of the big goals for me is helping students realize that power in the younger grades as well.”

She said she couldn’t be prouder of her students doing the work to be more supportive and inclusive for all of the students.

Belanger said his hope is that he is looking at the future leaders in the community of South Hadley.

“I hope these students I’m looking at recognize the impact that they are having not just on school community but on their town and hopefully on a much larger scale,” he said. “In hearing Sophie answer that first question, made me weepy. These are our leaders. The reason you decide to serve on the school committee is because you have deep care for 1,900 students in our town. In the moment where they recognize their power affect the greatest change is the moment leaders like us step aside, listen and facilitate that change.”

Garcia added it “fills her with hope.”

Kennedy explained the group has a lot of goals for the fall.

“We’re hoping to organize multiple assemblies and workshops not only for our school but the middle school and elementary school to spread our message and get everyone educated and on the same page

about racial injustice,” she said.

In preparation, Rahilly said the group is doing homework of their own over the summer.

“We’re learning how to develop language around these prominent issues within our school and a larger scale, too,” Rahilly said. “Some of the ways we’re doing that is learning more history and reading books by people of color. That’s how we’re going to start at the younger level and through high school, too.”

The group has begun planning a vigil on Aug. 1 from 6 to 8 p.m. at South Hadley High School parking lot. Masks will be required.

Kennedy said the purpose of the vigil is to remind the community the students are committed to making change.

“We are going to have people speak out about their experiences with racism, I think that can be really powerful hearing personal stories,” she said. “A lot of people in South Hadley are very privileged and they don’t see everything that goes on at school. They think racism doesn’t exist because they don’t experience it.”

Rahilly said the invitation to the vigil is extended to “the whole community because this is a conversation we all have to be involved in.”

The South Hadley Student Union can be found on Facebook, Instagram and via email at Shhsstudentunion@gmail.com.

VEHICLES PROHIBITED from page 1

Department and the Massachusetts Environmental Police have been notified of this activity and are monitoring the situation. The properties are currently under camera surveillance. Fines and penalties will be assessed for any unauthorized motor vehicle use on these properties, or any other town owned conservation areas.

Motorized use is very damaging to both trails and the surrounding habitat.

Bynan Conservation Area is a 162-acre property located in the southeast corner of South Hadley between New Ludlow Road and Lyman Terrace, and is open to the public for hiking and other forms of passive recreation on the extensive network of trails that traverse the property.

This property also consists of very

sensitive habitat including a pine barren, pitch pine and oak woodlands interspersed with wetlands and seasonal ponds and vernal pools.

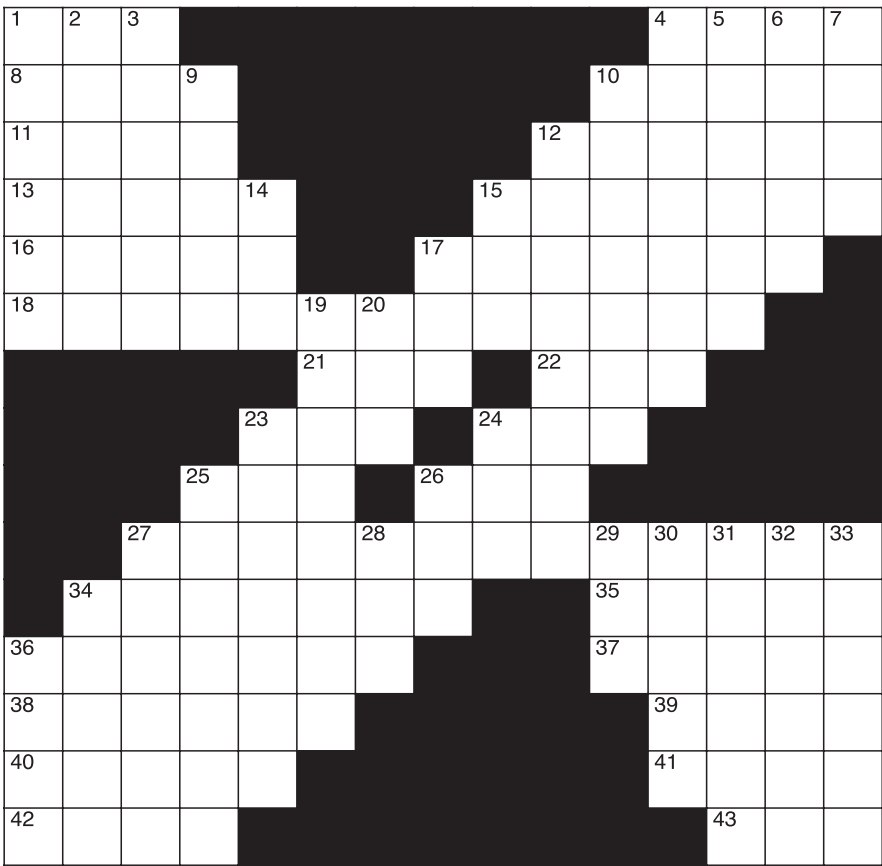
Bachelor Brook-Stony Brook Conservation Area is also open to the public for hiking and other forms of passive recreation on the extensive network of trails on both the north and south sides of Bachelor Brook.

In 2018, a one-mile ADA accessible loop trail and parking area was constructed off of Ferry Street to assist people of low mobility in enjoying the outdoors.

This property is also the most biologically diverse of the town conservation areas, providing habitat for numerous rare and endangered species.

Trail Maps can be downloaded from the town website: <https://www.southhadley.org/957/Trail-Maps>

Any information about the illegal motorized use at Bynan and Bachelor-Stoney Brook Conservation Areas can be sent to: Conservation Administrator: conservation@southhadleyma.gov; 413-538-5017 ext. 208 South Hadley Police Department: 413-538-8231 (non-emergency line).



- CLUES ACROSS**

 - 1. Sound unit
 - 4. Trim by cutting
 - 8. Small buffalo
 - 10. Ancient manuscript
 - 11. Look angry or sullen
 - 12. Glum
 - 13. Northern Zambia peoples
 - 15. Central
 - 16. Collector of birds' eggs
 - 17. Misbehavior
 - 18. Top of the line
 - 21. Political action committee
 - 22. Have already done
 - 23. Al Bundy's wife
 - 24. Entertainment channel
25. Holiday (informal)

26. The common gibbon

27. Legendary actress

34. Seasoned sausages

35. Bluish greens

36. Ridiculed

37. Three-dimensional arrangement

38. Emerged

39. Type of protein

40. Denmark natives

41. Leak slowly through

42. Expression of sorrow or pity

43. Midway between south and southeast
- CLUES DOWN**

 - 1. Artistic dancing
 - 2. Plenty
 - 3. Act leisurely
 - 4. Serve as a warning
 - 5. Admired lovingly
 - 6. Leftover oil from distillation process
 - 7. Company officer
 - 9. Egyptian unit of capacity
 - 10. One transmits information
 - 12. Middle layer of an embryo
 - 14. Form of "to be"
 - 15. Cairo Regional Airport
 - 17. Partner to cheese
 - 19. Sample
20. A shirt may have none

23. Public gatherings

24. Disallow

25. Overnight suitcases

26. French river

27. Where boats dock

28. Top of a pot

29. Type of drug

30. City along the Rhine

31. Animal disease

32. They go in martinis

33. A way to break away

34. Intermediate ecological stage

36. Baby term for father

ANSWERS ON PAGE 11



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A TURLEY PUBLICATION

Heinous act disturbs city

Investigators hope to solve case of animal cruelty

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

CHICOPEE – Everyone loves a puppy, right? A heinous exception to the old adage occurred in Chicopee last month when a 12-week-old German Shepard was beaten to death and left on the side of Goodwin Street, within five miles of the South Hadley border.

“We ask the public to call if anyone has seen a dog that looks like this or knows somebody who acquired the dog and now the dog is gone,” said Hannah Orenstein, an Animal Control Supervisor for the Thomas J. O’Connor Animal Control and Adoption Center (TJO) located in Springfield. “We’re offering roughly \$8,000 as a reward to anyone who has information that leads to the arrest and prosecution of whoever committed this crime.”

The incident occurred on June 19, at approximately 6 p.m., the Chicopee Police Department alerted a TJO animal control officer that the deceased puppy was discovered laid out alongside an unpaved portion of Goodwin Street near the Westover Air Reserve Base.

“A resident had been walking with his kids. He came upon the dog and contacted the police, who then contacted us. That’s how we found out about it,” said Orenstein.



Photo by Dalton Zbierski

The Thomas J. O’Connor Animal Control & Adoption Center in Springfield is investigating the suspicious death of a 12-week old German Shepard puppy found beaten on a backstreet in Chicopee.

A post-mortem exam completed by a TJO veterinarian concluded that the dog suffered significant injuries that were inconsistent with having been struck by a car or “any sort of accidental trauma,” said Orenstein.

“It was more likely blunt force trauma to the head that would have been inflicted by a human being,” said Orenstein. “It’s not usual but, unfortunately, in our line of work it’s not uncommon. We do deal with a number of cruelty cases and have at least two to three significant cruelty cases a month.”

TJO conducts daily negligence investigations into animal mistreatment, but “calls for egregious cruelty” disturb Orenstein the most. She paralleled animal abuse to an even more despicable act.

“It is critically important to [convey] that there’s a very strong connection between violence against animals and domestic violence. Based on the severity of this dog’s injuries, I feel very strongly that whoever caused these injuries is also abusing humans in their circle or is very close to that step,” said Orenstein.

TJO does not have the ability to file charges against perpetrators of animal abuse, but works closely with local law enforcement agencies, who then take action.

The Chicopee Police Department has not yet identified a suspect in last month’s crime.

Orenstein urges residents to come forward with any information that can help finger who is responsible for the puppy’s death. Even the smallest tip can make a big difference.

“If folks see animal cruelty happening, we ask that they please don’t hesitate to call,” she said. “We would rather go out and find out that there’s not an issue than ignore something that is potentially really cruel or could lead to human harm down the road.”

Anyone with information is asked to contact TJO at 413-781-1484 or the Chicopee Police Department at 413-592-6341



The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts has been making a difference all throughout the region since 1982.



The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts operates out of a 35,000 square foot warehouse in Hadley.

FOOD BANK from page 1

of all of the clients that we served that month, we served 95,000 clients. Jumping over to May of 2020, we served nearly 110,000. Many of those new clients are people who lost their jobs because of the pandemic; it’s pretty significant,” said Lillian Baulding, Communications and Engagement Officer.

Since opening in 1982, the food bank has prided itself in being able to function and serve during an array of scenarios. Many of the operation’s member agencies, including the Neighbors Helping Neighbors Food Pantry in South Hadley, have seen an uptick in demand this spring and summer.

With the food bank’s supply chain, the challenge is being confronted head on.

Food Operations Manager Mike Cortis explained that decades of foresight paid off tenfold in 2020.

“As awful as the current situation is, it really tests all of the previous work of everybody who has come through and worked here before,” said Cortis. “It really allows us to see everything they built and all the successes that they had and really the vision that they had. For us to be successful now, it’s because their vision in getting us to this point was correct.”

On a daily basis, food bank employees prepare more than 50,000 pounds of food for distribution. Last week, the facility distributed 250,000 pounds of food, and this past Monday, 14 trucks arrived to pick up orders.

While the logistics may seem over-



Food Operations Manager Mike Cortis stands beside Communications and Engagement Officer Lillian Baulding inside the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts on July 15.

whelming, employees meticulously prepare deliveries each day while adhering to COVID-19 safety protocols and maintaining the warehouse’s condition. Countless community and corporate donations enable them to pick from full shelves.

“On the receiving side, we also have four trucks coming in today as well to deliver. That’s in addition to farmers and donations we receive from over at [C&S Wholesale Grocers],” said Cortis. “We work with farmers all of the time. That’s another benefit of being where we are in this part of the Pioneer Valley. We are so close to all of our farmers, and they really are fantastic.”

Baulding noted that Big Y World Class Market delivers a truckload of meat every Tuesday. She added that everyday residents can contribute to the cause by providing small monetary donations, which



Photos by Dalton Zbierski

Due to the pandemic, there are minimal volunteers available to assist local food banks.

Baulding said helps provide more than canned goods.

“If people want to donate, for every dollar that is donated, we can provide four meals,” he said. “That can be a dinner for a family of four. Rather than going to the grocery store and buying a can of food that’s a dollar, if you donate it to us, we can provide four meals with that,” adding that donations from household are prohibited on account of COVID-19.

While working in a warehouse can be exhausting at times, but Cortis said his passion is fueled by the fact that the operation serves to help others. He summarized what specifically makes the food bank special.

“At the end of the day, even if you are having a bad day, everybody knows that they’re still feeding somebody; they’re still helping people,” said Cortis. “I think that



Brian Longto operates a piece of machinery inside the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts on the morning of July 15.

really goes a long way with someone’s attitude. Everybody here helps out when needed. When we bring somebody in, we want somebody who is invested in the mission.”

For more information on the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts and its various programs, one can visit its website at foodbankwma.org.

Opinion

GUEST COLUMN

Zucchini, zucchini and more zucchini

Today, the girls and I made a double batch of zucchini bread. This treat signals that summer is at its peak and so is the zucchini harvest! I usually think that if I make four loaves, two can go in the freezer. Typically, however, we devour the bread so fast it doesn't seem logical freeze any for later use when we can enjoy it now. I am hoping for a typical abundant harvest. Here is how to deal with lots and lots of this versatile vegetable.

Store it. Zucchini will keep in the refrigerator for at least one week. Smaller squashes are more flavorful, and less seedy than their overgrown counterparts. Harvest when the fruits are six inches long or less, and still narrow. It is likely that baseball bat-sized squashes will develop now and then, especially if you are away from the garden for a few days. Don't worry; they can be used in most recipes that call for zucchini, although you may wish to remove the largest seeds first as they have a tendency to get tough and chewy.

Freeze it. Simply shred whole zucchinis, skin and all. Drain in a colander to remove excess liquid and pack in containers or freezer bags. Nothing beats zucchini bread in the middle of winter. It is helpful to freeze in amounts compatible with your recipe; in other words if you need two cups to make bread, freeze in two cup portions.

If fried veggies are a favorite treat, you can freeze raw, peeled zucchini sections after coating them with bread crumbs. First, freeze them on a plate or cookie sheet, then, pack in freezer bags with as much air removed as possible. Fry up at a later date. I have never been very successful freezing blanched zucchini slices. Experiment yourself and maybe you will have better luck.

Steam it. Who likes soggy zucchini? No one. Cut in slices one quarter of an inch thick and steam for a mere two or three minutes. Sprinkle with dill or lemon juice and thyme for a wonderful summer side dish. One trick I have found to prevent soggy is to dump out your steaming water then let the zucchini sit on the hot pan for a bit before eating.

Stuff it. Here is the perfect use for the aforementioned baseball bat-sized quash. Making zucchini boats are my sister-in-law Janice's favorite way to utilize the vegetable. I can always count on her to take a few biggies off my hands. With a spoon hollow out the seed cavity. Stuff it with a mixture of cooked rice, sauce and ground beef or turkey. Top with shredded cheese and bake until it bubbles. Yummy! Put a Mexican spin on this recipe by using black beans, salsa and taco cheese along with brown rice in place of the other ingredients. Freeze individual portions of this dish for a quick dinner.

Bake with it. Zucchini bread and muffins are one thing, but double chocolate zucchini cake? Yes, and there are more enticing dessert recipes where that came from. Consult your local library or the internet for other mouth-watering selections. One pointer: drain shredded zucchini well before using in any recipe. Place it in a colander and apply pressure with clean hands or a large mixing spoon. Squeeze all the liquid right out of it. This way your desserts will be moist, but not soggy.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to ekennedy@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

IN THE GARDEN



Roberta McQuaid



GUEST COLUMN

In My Backyard

By Ellenor Downer
Guest Columnist

MassWildlife biologists recently visited nest sites to band peregrine falcon chicks. A total of 46 territorial pairs were documented statewide. Most pairs are nesting on man-made sites such as buildings, bridges and quarry cliffs. A few pairs are raising young on mountainside cliffs in more remote parts of the state. Two new nests were confirmed in Springfield and three historical nests have been reconfirmed in Bourne, Sandisfield and Worcester. Before restoration efforts, the last active peregrine falcon nest in the commonwealth was documented in 1955. Nesting failures were due mostly to the eggshell thinning effects of DDT and similar pesticides. Peregrine falcon restoration became MassWildlife's Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program first restoration project in 1984 and is its longest running project to date. In Massachusetts, the peregrine falcon's status under the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act, the bird's MESA status was improved from threatened to special concern in late 2019.

The peregrine falcon is about 16 inches long and has a long, tapered wings and a long broad tail. It has a blue-gray back, barred belly, white bid and wide, dark sideburns. As with most falcons, the female is larger than the male. Peregrine falcons are spectacular fliers and display tremendous speed while pursuing other birds. They catch birds on the wing and also eat insects. The female lays three to four creamy white eggs with dark markings. They nest on cliff ledges 50 to 200 feet above the ground or on tall buildings in urban areas where there is an abundant supply of pigeons. They make a series of high-pitched sounds like "ki ki ki ki" given as an alarm near the nest.

Sand hill cranes
The Ware River Nature Club documented the breeding pair of sand hill cranes in Worcester County with the discovery of two hatched chicks in Hardwick in May. On June 14, nearly a month after the young hatched,



Paula Ouimette, the author's daughter, drew this peregrine falcon.

the pair of adults was found at a large beaver pond wetland with large shrubs, a habitat they typically prefer. The pair was observed for several hours over a period of three days and unfortunately the chicks were not seen. Young birds are vulnerable to myriad predators, but often one chick survives. This was not the case with the pair in Hardwick. Hopefully, the pair will nest in the area in the future.

Hawk
I saw two small birds chasing a hawk this week. Most likely, they were protecting their nest. The hawk was no match for the more agile pair of smaller birds, as the hawk flew away from them.

Nectar feeder
I continue to have lots of hummingbirds at my nectar feeders. I also have a downy woodpecker, Baltimore oriole and a red squirrel that come to the feeder. The squirrel wastes nectar as it tilts the feeder to drink.
People may report a bird sighting or bird related experience by calling me at 413-967-3505, leaving a message at extension 100 or emailing mybackyard88@aol.com or edowner@turley.com.

A QUOTE

of NOTE
“ I've been pretty happy with the opening of our green spaces; basketball courts, athletic fields and things like that. I know that many communities still have the rims off the hoops and have saran wrap on their playground and things like that, ”

South Hadley Recreation Director Andrew Rogers in the story "Fall sports in limbo, South Hadley Rec. Department updates BOS."

OPINION PAGE/ LETTERS POLICY

Letters to the Editor have a maximum of 350 words. We require writers to include their name, address and phone number in order for our office to authenticate authorship prior to publication. Addresses and phone numbers are not published.

Unsigned or anonymous letters will NOT be published.

We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions. Libelous, unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks or defamation of character are not allowed. Deadline for submissions is Wednesday at noon.

Please email (preferred) letters to townreminder@turley.com. Mailed letters can be sent to Town Reminder, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069.

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As a paper of record, we attempt to cover all general news, personality profiles, and community features that we know about. This includes all selectmen and school committee meetings as well as spot planning board, board of health, finance, and other town meetings determined by the issue's relevance to our readers. There are the annual major community event features that we should always cover, but we are more than open to suggestions of other features to celebrate the fabric of our communities and their many interesting occupants. Our loyal advertisers provide funding for this paid staff coverage.

For more information on news or community features for the Town Reminder, please email townreminder@turley.com.

PVPA students awarded for excellence

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

SOUTH HADLEY – Two graduates of the Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Charter Public School class of 2020 were recently awarded for their outstanding display of creativity, ingenuity and commitment to the performing arts.

Greyson Lynch and Andrea Tuthill have been named as the inaugural recipients of the PVPA Alumni Scholarship for Excellence in the Performing Arts. Each graduate will receive \$2,500 to go towards their higher education.

“Out of a class of incredible artists, I’m very honored and really lucky to receive this award,” said Lynch, a musical theater major at PVPA who will attend the Musical Theatre BFA Program at Boston Conservatory this fall. “I know that every aspect of it will be helpful for my future both for the next four years going to college as well as beyond that.”

Lynch and Tuthill were selected by the PVPA Alumni Board after submitting an application that included an artistic demonstration, academic performance and a personal statement detailing their love for the arts.

Tuthill will pursue a BFA in Stage Management at the University of Miami in the fall. She credited PVPA’s talented and diverse collection of teachers for preparing her to take the next step in her career.

“I hope that PVPA is around for a really long time because it’s a really fabulous school,” she said. “The staff comes from all over the place and all have different backgrounds. These are people who have worked professionally in their fields and really know what they’re talking about. Having access to those resources has truly been incredible.”

Scholarship committee member and PVPA class of 2009 alum Dan Robert was able to interact with dozens of stu-



PVPA Class of 2020 graduate Greyson Lynch is a recipient of the PVPA Alumni Scholarship for Excellence in Performing Arts and will pursue his passion next fall at the Boston Conservatory.

dents while participating in the selection process. Robert, a Los Angeles-based television writer and actor, complimented all of the applicants.

“It was an absolute honor to spend the past few months immersing myself in the work and words of the embarrassingly talented PVPA class of 2020,” said Robert. “From this pool, it was nearly impossible to identify two awardees. It is clear this next generation of PVPA artists and citizens are going to keep alive the magic of our school.”

Tuthill noted that stage management is “the more underappreciated part of theatre,” and was thrilled to be recog-



Courtesy photos
Andrea Tuthill recently received the PVPA Alumni Scholarship for Excellence in Performing Arts. She’ll study Stage Management at the University of Miami this fall.

nized for her tireless work behind the scenes. Grateful for the presence of the alumni, she offered up her thanks.

“I hope that I can come back and be that inspiring force that the alumni were for me,” said Tuthill.

At Boston Conservatory, Lynch will enter one of the country’s elite college programs for musical theatre. From 9

a.m. to 11 p.m., his days will be filled with activities centered around theatre, dance, singing, piano, acting and rehearsals.

Lynch is incredibly excited to arrive at the conservatory and learn alongside some of the world’s most talented performance art students. Like Tuthill, Lynch was moved by the presence of the PVPA alumni.

“It’s so uncommon to see success stories,” he said. “Everyone who goes to my school has a common interest of wanting to pursue our love for the arts so to see someone who did pursue it and became successful in his field is very inspiring. When you’re from a small population like the Pioneer Valley and don’t know a lot of people who made it, it’s nice to hear about someone who has. Then you know that it’s possible.”

Tuthill agreed. “There are always the well-meaning aunts and uncles who say, ‘Well, if you want to make money, maybe you should have a backup plan because you’ll never make it in theater or music,’ but you should always try to follow your passion,” Tuthill said. “You’ll regret it if you don’t try. People aren’t in your head; they don’t know who you are and what you want. Only you know that, and you should follow your dreams.”

PVPA is a regional public charter school that serves 400 students ranging from grades 7 to 12 who hail from more than 60 towns in western Massachusetts.

Dalton Zbierski is a Staff Writer and can be reached at dzbierski@turley.com.

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Living through history

Local elementary students share their thoughts on COVID-19

SOUTH HADLEY – Much like the rest of the world, children have gone through the pandemic and are experiencing history being made from their homes.

Third graders from Mosier Elementary School were tasked with a writing assignment about their thoughts and feelings surrounding COVID-19, according to teacher Allyson Saul.

This poem could be in any form the students wished and submissions included haiku, acrostic, shape, free verse and rhyming poems. The assignment was created by Leah McCarthy.

By Leah Vantassel
Summer Vacation

Leah, Matthew, David, Mom
and Grandma
To the mommy car
I'm going to a game shop
I play Sonic Mania on PlayStation
I'm going to a train station.
I play Sonic Mania on Nintendo Switch
I'm going to a Milkshake Factory
I'm going to Grandma's house
Welcome to Grandma's house
I want Netflix
Leah wants a TV
I want Mario and Sonic at the
Olympic game
Leah and Sam go to the mall
I play a two-player skateboarding
game
I'm going home
I want bacon, pancakes, and sausage

By Aleiah Lindo-Ocasio

Home with family.
Riding a bike or taking a hike.
Getting food.
Are the only places that we go.

By Aiden Smith

I wake up and go outside.
I know what to do because it is in my
mind.
I play on the trampoline until it is time.
To go inside.
We go inside and play on our devices
and eat breakfast all the time.
The coronavirus shuts down restau-
rants that means we can't go wherever
we want.
We have to be home every day if we go
outside the coronavirus will
tell us to stay.

By Logan Bergdoll

Can play lots of games.
Only staying with my mom and Grandma.
Really hard to stay home.
Outside mowing my grandma's lawn.
No going to the store with my mom.
At home and very bored.
Very easy to do schoolwork.
It is fun to play games.
Rough to wear a mask.
Upset I can't go on vacation.
So happy there is no school.

COLLEGE NOTES

Springfield College recognizes Dean's List students

SPRINGFIELD – Springfield College Recognizes Dean's List Students for the 2020 Spring Semester.

Springfield College has named Michael White from Granby, to the dean's list for academic excellence for the 2020 spring semester. White is studying Applied Exercise Science.

Springfield College has named Sarah Picard from South Hadley, to the dean's list for academic excellence for the 2020 spring semester. Picard is studying Communication Sciences and Disorders.

Springfield College has named Sean Doyle from South Hadley, to the dean's list for academic excellence for the 2020 spring semester. Doyle is studying Communication/Sport Journalism.

Springfield College has named Anthony Kelly from South Hadley, to the dean's list for academic excellence for the 2020 spring semester. Kelly is studying Criminal Justice.

Springfield College has named Abigail Edge from South Hadley, to the dean's list for academic excellence for the 2020 spring semester. Edge is studying English.

Springfield College has named Bailey Avisata-Taylor from South Hadley, to the dean's list for academic excellence for the 2020 spring semester. Avisata-Taylor is studying Exploratory Studies.

Springfield College has named Jordan Houle from South Hadley, to the dean's list for academic excellence for the 2020 spring semester. Houle is studying Health Science.

spring semester. Baran is studying Health Science and Pre-Physical Therapy.

Springfield College has named Katherine Sarnacki from Granby to the dean's list for academic excellence for the 2020 spring semester. Sarnacki is studying Sports Biology.

Springfield College has named Kayla Deecher from Granby to the dean's list for academic excellence for the 2020 spring semester. Deecher is studying Sport Management.

Springfield College is an independent, nonprofit, coeducational institution founded in 1885. Approximately 4,100 students, including 2,500 full-time undergraduate students, study at its main campus in Springfield, Mass., and at its regional campuses across the country. Springfield College inspires students through the guiding principles of its Humanities philosophy - educating in spirit, mind, and body for leadership in service to others.

Worcester Polytechnic Institute announces Dean's List

WORCESTER – The following local residents were among 1,749 students from Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) named to the university's Dean's List for academic excellence for the spring 2020 semester.

Kate O'Neill, of South Hadley, is a member of the class of 2021 majoring in civil engineering.

John Parenteau, of South Hadley, is a member of the class of 2023 majoring in civil engineering.

Jeremy Trembley, of Granby, is a member of the class of 2023 majoring in robotics engineering.

The criteria for the WPI Dean's List differs from most other universities as WPI does not compute a grade point average (GPA). Instead, WPI defines the Dean's List by the amount of work completed at the A level in courses and projects.

"WPI's academic programs are rigorous and require a level of independence beyond what is required in traditional courses. WPI students work on open-ended problems for communities around the world. The problems are important and the impact is real" said dean of undergraduate studies Arthur C. Heinricher. "Some of this nation's best and brightest students come to WPI to study engineering and science and business and the humanities. Those named to the Dean's List have excelled in all of their work, and we are exceptionally proud of these outstanding students."

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High school league among first sports action in months



A Wilbraham player makes a play at shortstop.



Baseball action is back among high-school age students beginning last week.

Submitted photos



One of Agawam's junior league pitchers hurls Sunday afternoon.



Monson/Palmer runner Trey Yesu takes a lead off second base.

REGION – While the American Legion chose not to sponsor any type of season this summer due to the coronavirus pandemic, the players and coaches started a league amongst themselves, with junior and senior league action beginning last week with the start of Phase 3. The seasons is set to go through to mid-August.



Soccer is another sport labeled at-risk by the state. Thus the Pioneer Valley Summer Soccer League season was cancelled.

David Greenslit takes Street Stock Battle for the Belt victory

By Gary Dutton

WINCHESTER, N.H. – Ben Byrne (Deerfield, Ma) stormed to his second NHSTRA Modified victory of the summer Saturday, July 11, at Monadnock Speedway, topping a stout 21-car field at the storied quarter-mile oval.

With a huge crowd filling the social-distance-spaced grandstands to take in the night's huge fireworks display and six exciting divisions of racing at the high-banked speedplant, nobody went home disappointed. Except, maybe, Todd Patnode and Chris Davis.

Dave Greenslit (Langdon, NH) made easy work of winning the Street Stock Battle of The Belt series 50-lapper, LMS superstar Aaron Fellows (Croydon, NH) stayed undefeated on the world, while Pure Stocker Dave Aiken (Claremont, NH) earned his second victory lap of the summer, and Tim Leblanc (Hinsdale, NH) topped the Mini Stocks; all on Monadnock's fourth night of 2020 racing.



Submitted photo

David Greenslit gets a victory in the Street Stock event.

Rob Richardi and second-generation hot shoe Matt Kimball brought the thundering Mod Squad to the green, with Richardi leading by less than a wheel on the first two go-rounds and then setting a fast pace as Kimball and Brian Chapin went to war behind him.

Close behind them, Trevor Bleau, firing from row four, and Ben Byrne, from row six, were charging forward with four others. Byrne had almost passed Richardi when the caution waved on lap 21, and then completed the task a lap later. Bleau,

on a rail, claimed the deuce as lap 28 went in the books, but could advance no further. Richardi held strong to hit the stripe third, just ahead of Kimball and Brian Robie.

Bleau's fourth top-four of the young season deadlocked him with Robie atop the points parade, while defending track champ Todd Patnode – third in points entering the night's racing – got taken out in a lap-five jingle, finishing 21st on the night.

Please see **RACING**, page 10

Governor's guidance guts summer sports

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com



File photo

The Spec Pond Summer Basketball League had to be cancelled due to the pandemic. The governor's administration felt basketball involved too close contact to be allowed at this time.

REGION – A huge blow was dealt to many summer leagues that were looking forward to getting out on the field and participating in games after guidance released from the state effectively cancelled them.

The Pioneer Valley Summer Soccer League and Spec Pond Summer Basketball League were both the most adversely affected by the state's guidelines and restrictions the summer seasons are now cancelled for hundreds of kids across the region.

The guidance came as a surprise for the leagues as both were preparing to be able to have games once Phase 3 was set to begin.

Brian Litz, who runs the Spec Pond Summer Basketball League, had updated the league website, received team registrations, collected money, and established a full schedule. He was preparing for games to begin last

Please see **SUMMER GAMES**, page 11

Golf makes a return with Amateur Championship

MARION-MATTAPOISETT – When the 112th Massachusetts Amateur Championship began Monday, it was a symbol of triumph and perseverance for Mass Golf and the state’s golf community at large.

The five days of competition will mark the first live statewide championship sporting event that will take place in the Bay State during the COVID-19 pandemic. Though several spring events and competitions have had to be rescheduled or canceled this year, the Mass Amateur is still taking place as scheduled. Hosting this historic event will be The Kittansett Club in Marion, with The Bay Club at Mattapoisett co-hosting stroke play for the first two days.

“We could not be more excited to have the ability to begin our championship season,” said Jesse Menachem, Mass Golf’s executive director/CEO. “For all the uncertainty that has come with this year, next week we’ll surely be a celebration of the fantastic golf talent we have across the Bay State. Both golf courses have done an excellent job preparing so that golfers compete to the best of their abilities and enjoy themselves.”

Both golf courses are located along on the south shore, along Buzzards Bay. The Kittansett Club, founded in 1922 and designed by legendary golf course architect William Flynn, is a seaside links course surrounded on three sides by water that is often transformed by a stiff wind. When Kittansett hosted the Walker Cup in 1953, Dick Chapman, a top U.S. amateur who won the 1940 U.S. Amateur and 1951 British Amateur, referred to Kittansett

as, “The hardest golf course I ever played.” What’s more, when the Mass Amateur was last played at Kittansett in 2008, the cutline was 11-over. Gil Hanse has restored many of the original mounds and has had numerous trees removed to return the seaside views. The course has also been rated as one of Golf Digest’s Top 100 Courses in America since 1971.

The Bay Club at Mattapoisett, located 10 miles west, was added in early June as a second site for stroke play, making it the second time in three years the Mass Amateur is being played at two different facilities. Founded in 2003, The Bay Club has a much shorter history, but it’s a scenic parkland course with 88% of the original forest preserved. Designed by PGA Professional Brad Faxon and designer Brad Booth, the course features pristine fairways and greens and British-style fescue that will swallow up poorly-executed shots.

Mass Golf’s competitive season officially began June 15, with three of the nine total qualifying rounds used to determine the 144-player Championship field. With first-tee starts only, half the field will start stroke play at The Kittansett Club, while the other half will compete at The Bay Club. They will switch the next day, and the top 32 will advance to match play.

Kittansett has hosted this event five times previously, first in 1958 and most recently in 2008. In the field are 12 previous champions, including defending champion Steve DiLisio (Salem CC), who recently finished his senior year at Duke University. John Hadges

(Thorny Lea GC) last won this event when it was played at Kittansett and will have the chance to do so once again. Matt Parziale (Thorny Lea GC), the six-time Mass Golf Player of the Year, won the championship in 2017, while Mike Calef (Pine Oaks GC), the last person to win back-to-back (2012, 2013) is seeking a third title.

This year will also mark a record 34th Mass Amateur for Frank Vana Jr. (Marlborough CC), a Mass Golf Hall of Fame member who has won the championship twice (2004-05). He also holds the record with 26 match play appearances, last making it into the Round of 32 in 2017.

Steven Tasho (Thorny Lea) also won twice, taking home titles in 1981 and 1985. Patrick Frodigh (Dedham C & PC; 2018); Nick McLaughlin (Far Corner GC; 2015); Ryan Riley (Thorny Lea GC; 2011); Benjamin Spitz (George Wright GC; 2006); Brendan Hester (Pleasant Valley CC; 2001) round out the defending champions.

“We’ve been looking forward to watching the best amateur players in the state compete on the same stage with one another once again,” said Kevin Eldredge, Mass Golf’s Director of Rules & Competitions. “We have two great venues that will set the perfect stage for the return of championship golf in the Bay State. The staff at both The Kittansett Club and The Bay Club have done a wonderful job keeping their courses in pristine conditions and preparing their facilities to allow us to conduct a safe and enjoyable championship for all.”

Valley Wheel Baseball folds 2020 season two days before start

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

REGION – The Valley Wheel Over-30 Baseball League became the second league in the last two weeks to close up shop for the 2020 season and was added to the host of other school-age and collegiate leagues that are not playing this summer.

The Valley Wheel, which recently was going to start its season in July after waiting more than two months to even be able to hold tryouts.

With the Quabbin Valley Over-30 Baseball League also called off and some players dropping out of Valley Wheel’s abbreviated season, there were plenty of open roster spots available and plenty of players to fill them.

The league held four tryouts on consecutive Sundays and was set to holds its draft last Tuesday when league commissioner Jim Nason abruptly cancelled the season due to the new guidance distributed to amateur baseball leagues for Phase 3 of Gov. Baker’s re-opening plan.

Among the language was a requirement for batters and baserunners to wear masks or other face coverings.

The rule was meant to provide some protection in instances where there could be the potential for the minimal amount of contact that does occur in baseball, such as batters at the plate being in prox-

imity to the catcher, or a baserunner being held on at first, second, or third by a nearby fielder.

The guidance also suggested dugouts be spaced out with players utilizing space near the dugout to stay socially distant, as well as using face coverings if that option was not available.

Baseball was among the sports to be allowed to begin games. Soccer, basketball, and lacrosse were forbidden to have contests.

Following the governor’s guidance being distributed, Nason had league managers poll their players.

Nason said Tuesday morning enough players among the existing six teams had dropped out due to the requirements that there would not be enough players to hold the season, and cancelled the 2020 season just two days before it was set to begin.

Nason had been considering a 5 to 10 game slate, starting out with five games, and possibly expanding if the conditions in Massachusetts were favorable.

Now, the entire 15-game schedule is cancelled and league players will have to wait until 2021 to play. Also cancelled was a scheduled exhibition game for the league at the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, N.Y. that was scheduled for early September. It is not known if the game will be attempted next season.

RACING from page 9

Dave Greenslit, the winner of the Battle of The Belt Series’ first event of the summer at Hudson, duplicated that run Friday. Firing from row two, the defending track Street Stock champ immediately took control, inching past Chris Buffone on lap one, and never looked back.

Buffone’s uncle, former Pro Stock ace Tommy O’Sullivan, got up for second on lap 18 but, on this night, it was Greenslit in a runaway, taking the checkers far ahead of O’Sullivan and Buffone, and ending the Curtis family’s three-week stranglehold on Street Stock victory lane.

Cam Curtis, then Justin Littlewood, led the Late Model Sportsmen over the stripe the first four go-rounds, with Aaron Fellows then inching under Littlewood, taking charge, and simply driving away. Littlewood was strong in second, and Robert Hagar came home third. Fellows has not lost a race at any track so far this year.

Tim LeBlanc, firing from row two, led every lap of the Mini Stock 25-lapper to score his first win of the season. Nathan Wenzel came from row four of the 17-car field to claim the deuce, with Andy Harman nudging past two-time winner Gordon Farnum to earn the three spot.

And in the Pure Stocks, Lady Luck dealt defending track champ Chris Davis a crap hand for the second week in a row. In charge with only two laps to go, Davis dropped suddenly off pace again, this time watching helplessly as Dave Aiken stormed past to score his second win of the summer.

Mike Douglas took the checkers just behind Aiken, with Brandon Lavoie, Kodi Sabins, and Nolan McClay rounding out the top five. Davis coasted to a disappointing tenth-place finish. In a post race inspection, Lavoie was disqualified.

Justin Harris took charge on lap 20 of the Northeast Classic

Lites 30-lapper, then sped off to victory ahead of Joey Deguio. Cody Hodgdon earned the bronze, while defending four-time series champ Duane Skofield was a non-factor in this one.

Monadnock Speedway returns to action next Saturday, July 18, when the Mini Stock Battle of The Belt Series comes to town, along with a full card of weekly racing series events. Advanced Tickets and more information, please visit www.monadnockspeedway.com.

NHSRA MODIFIEDS: Ben Byrne, Trevor Bleau, Rob Richardi, Matt Kimball, Brian Robie, Stewart McCormick, Cameron Houle, Brian Chapin, Cory Plummer, Keith Carzello, Kim Rivet, Kevin Pittsinger, Eric Leclair, Zach Leone, Anthony Bello, Jerry Gomarlo, Solomon Brow, Brad Zahensky, Scott MacMichael, Jason Houle, Todd Patnode

LATE MODEL SPORTSMEN: Aaron Fellows, Justin

Littlewood, Robert Hagar, Camdyn Curtis, Willie Kuhn, Cole Littlewood, Scott Beck

STREET STOCK (50-lap Battle of The Belt): Dave Greenslit, Tommy O’Sullivan, Chris Buffone, Chase Curtis, Jaret Curtis, Brian Robie, Tim Wenzel, Nathan Wenzel, Mike Radzuik, Hillary Renaud, Ed Lofland, Randy Rameau, Joe Tetreault, Paul Barnard, Robbie Streeter, Steven Dubois, Keny Thompson, Troy Waterman, Chris Riendeau, Chris Curtis

MINI STOCK: Tim Leblanc, Nathan Wenzel, Andrew Harmon, Gordon Farnum, Hayden Grenier, Jared Roy, Ethan Marsh, Ray King, Bill Chaffee, Shelby Avery, Jake Puchalski, Kevin Mcknight, Joshua Hubbard, Jeff Asselin, Kevin Russell, Kevin Clayton, Bobby Kirker

PURE STOCK: Dave Aiken, Mike Douglas, Kodi Sabens, Nolan McClay, JD Stockwell, Jason Leray, Cory Lofland, Chris Davis, Amy Jaycox, Jimmy Zellman, Carter Chamberlain, Conor Jencik, Nick Houle, Damon Roy, Regan Buffum

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Granby Town Clerk reminders

GRANBY – The Annual Town Meeting will be held outside on Saturday, July 25 at 9 a.m. A tent will be set up between the Granby Jr. Sr. High School and the east meadow school in the parking lots.

All residents participating must be a registered voter. Eligible voters will receive a card at the check in station.

Check in will start at 8:30 a.m. Go to any table state your name and address, or if you wish scanning your driver's license will allow a faster look-up, however, this is only an option and is not being used for identification purposes, but merely as a look-up tool.

Voter registration:

If you are not a registered voter the deadline to register for this meeting is July 15, 2020; you may register on-line by going to the town's website at www.granby-ma.gov and go to the town clerk department and click on voter registration, or go directly to the state website at www.sec.state.ma.us.

Confirmation notices are being mailed out on July 15. Confirmation notices are the third notice to voters who have not answered the annual town census.

For those that receive this notice please mail back asap. Confirmation notices labels the voter as "inactive" to reinstate your voter status to "active" you must mail back this notice or call the town clerk's office.

For questions or concerns please call Kathy Kelly-Regan in the town clerk's office at 413-467-7178.

Granby business owner talks clean working space

GRANBY – For the past several months, people across the country have been sheltering at home to help stop the spread of the COVID-19 virus. It is no surprise that people are now nervous about rejoining their communities and reentering public spaces.

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed the definition of "clean," according to Kevin Fall from SERVPRO of Hampshire County. As the country slowly begins to reopen, Fall, a local professional cleaning specialist, said there four things people should look for when they reenter their community to help ensure they are stepping into a healthy environment.

1. Look for "signs" of clean. "When you first walk into a building, you should immediately take inventory of whether the space has been cleaned recently," Fall said. "A clean space should be free of visible dirt and trash."

He added that seeing fingerprints on doors and windows or stains on countertops and tables may indicate a relaxed attitude towards cleaning. High-touch surfaces should be disinfected regularly.

"Oftentimes, you can smell a freshly cleaned facility," he said. "Standalone sanitation stations are a good sign that preventing the spread of germs is a priority. You may notice physical signage stating when the space was last cleaned, who is servicing the facility, or details of a regular cleaning regimen. Many businesses are also hanging signage to remind guests and employees of proper social distancing standards."

2. What adjustments have staff made?

"Everyone has a responsibility to stop the spread of the coronavirus," said Fall.

The staff of retail businesses, restaurants or community centers should be properly trained in CDC-approved cleaning methods. If employees are not using proper techniques or products, it might be because of a lack of proper training. Likewise, look for staff who are wearing gloves and masks and who are practicing safe distancing when interacting with customers.

"It is obvious when the business is not protecting its employees," he said. "People should come before profits."

3. What adjustments has the business made to the physical space? Many businesses and facilities have made physical changes to their buildings to help reduce the risk of spreading illness. The business may adjust the traffic flow of patrons to prevent congested areas. Contactless points-of-sale are becoming more common, and many businesses are constructing barriers between employees and guests. Some are even adding markers on floors to indicate safe distances. One good way to help prevent the spread of infection is to reduce the number of touch points, such as propping doors open and opening windows to increase airflow. Some businesses are going a step further and reducing the number of guests allowed inside the space at one time.

4. Does it look like "business as usual?"

"In the same way that the country changed following 9/11, what we once knew as "normal" may change forever," Fall said. "If a facility is still operating in the way it did before the coronavirus pandemic, there is a good chance the managers or staff are not taking the illness seriously and are not prioritizing the health of their employees and guests."

Many businesses have reduced their hours of operation or offered times when they are open only for at-risk individuals, such as senior citizens or those who are immune-compromised.

"Before stepping out of your door, check the company's social media pages or their website for communications about their hours and the steps they are taking to protect patrons," he said. "These locations should be following federal, state, and local mandates with regard to safety."

Lastly, Fall added that "Reopening America requires all of us to move forward together by practicing social distancing and other daily habits to help reduce the risk of exposure to the coronavirus." SERVPRO specializes in disaster restoration, cleanup and repair services, helping to remediate damage, making it "Like it never even happened" for both commercial and residential customers. For more information on SERVPRO of Hampshire County, contact Kevin Fall at 413-589-8975 or fallkl@servprohampshirecounty.com.

Granby Public Schools to receive Carlos Vega Fund for Social Justice mini grants

REGION – The Carlos Vega Fund for Social Justice has awarded 15 mini grants totaling \$10,716 to organizations in the greater Holyoke area who are fighting injustice, oppression and poverty. This year the fund received 18 applications totaling \$17,236.

The awardees are: Granby Public Schools, Clinical and Support Options, Enchanted Circle Theater, Girls Inc. of the Valley and Plunge Arts, First Shift Productions, The Gray House, Holyoke Public Schools, Holyoke Safe Neighborhood Initiative, Holyoke Senior Center and Western Mass Elder Care, Home City Development, OneHolyoke CDC, The Performance Project, Treehouse, Seeds of a Father, and Wistariahurst Museum.

This is the ninth year that the Carlos Vega Fund has awarded mini grants. This is the first time we were not able to present the awards at a public ceremony honoring the awardees and the important work they do.

Carlos Vega was an ardent activist for civil rights, community-building, education, healthcare, and social justice in Holyoke. The donor designated fund, which is managed by the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts, was started in 2010 to honor Carlos on his 60th birthday and to continue his forty-year legacy by awarding small grants to nonprofit organizations through an annual competitive process.

The mini grants are awarded to initiatives that foster change and promote empowerment, self-help, and economic, political and social justice.

SUMMER SPORTS

from page 9

Monday, July 6, when the guidance came down from the state barring soccer and basketball contests as well as lacrosse.

Gov. Charlie Baker's administration stated the three sports involved contact that was too close and too frequent to effectively prevent the spread of coronavirus.

While young people are not among the most high-risk population, they have the ability to carry and spread the virus among themselves, which could then spread to other homes and infect older people.

Upon the guidance, which was released last Monday, Litz was forced to cancel the entire season and refund fees back to teams which were prepared to come, wear masks when close together, and have little to no fans in attendance for much of the season.

The Pioneer Valley Summer Soccer League had not fully established its schedule, but was preparing to move forward with its league with six different divisions and more than 60 teams ready to get back into action.

The PVSSL services high school students who are looking to get back into shape and prepare for the upcoming high school season, which typically starts a couple of weeks after the PVSSL season ends. The PVSSL season typically runs from mid-June to early August, but the Kolodziej family, which run the league, were looking to run a modified scheduled that would have carried the league to mid-August.

Like the Spec Pond league, the there were fewer teams, but they had all paid registrations and were preparing to participate before the news came down that soccer and basketball would be barred as part of the initial part of Phase 3.

According to the basic guidance in the governor's re-open plan, practices and individual workouts in various sports were allowed to happen under Phase 2. Games and other contests were supposed to be able to start with Phase 3, but the original report did not make specifications of which sports would be allowed.

Baseball and softball are being allowed to play contests in Phase 3 and a couple of leagues did begin play last week.

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► Health & Wellness

Protect yourself and others from the deadly heat and humidity of summer

And don't forget the kids – never leave them in a hot car

SPRINGFIELD – The heat and humidity has already arrived along with the summer months. Heat is a dangerous “disease” and can kill. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, each year in the United States hundreds of people, both adults and children, die from the heat. However, you can stay cool and safe this summer by observing some important tips to keep you healthy and prevent heat-related illnesses.

Who is at risk:

“Those at greatest risk for developing a heat-related illness are children under 5 and people 65 years of age and older, who have the least ability to regulate their body temperatures, as well as those who work outdoors for a living,” said Dr. Joseph Schmidt, vice chair and chief of Emergency Medicine at Baystate Medical Center. Overweight people and others with chronic illnesses such as heart disease or high blood pressure, as well as those on certain medications, are also at high risk. Extreme heat affects the body’s ability to safely regulate its temperature, often resulting in heat-related illnesses such as heat exhaustion, heat stroke, or heat cramps. Sweating is the body’s natural defense to cooling itself. However, when humidity is high, sweat does not evaporate as quickly, preventing the body from releasing heat quickly and resulting in a rapid rise of body temperature.

Tips for keeping cool:

As with many illnesses, the best defense is prevention, and Dr. Schmidt suggests the following tips to keep you safe in the high heat: Stay out of the heat – Avoid direct sunlight and strenuous activity outdoors. If possible, remain indoors. If you do not have air conditioning, consider visiting a location that does, such as the mall or a movie theater. Dress for the weather – Wear lightweight, light-colored, loose-fitting clothing and a broad-brimmed hat when outdoors. Stay away from polyester in favor

of cotton and linens which are better at repelling the sun’s heat. Also, consider wearing sunglasses and putting on a sunscreen with an SPF 15 or greater. Drink plenty of liquids – Begin drinking before you go outside and, if exercising, drink one quart of liquid an hour to replace lost fluid. Avoid caffeinated beverages and alcohol which can contribute to the loss of more body fluid. Also, if taking water pills or on a fluid restrictive diet, consult with your physician before increasing your liquid intake. Take it slow and easy with athletic activity and working outdoors – Postpone athletic activity during high heat and humidity. Limit outdoor activities to the morning and evening. Drinking sports beverages can replace lost salt and minerals when you sweat. However, those on low-salt diets should check with their doctor before drinking sports beverages. If you work outdoors, in addition to drinking plenty of liquids and dressing appropriately, pace yourself and take frequent short breaks in the shade. Eat smaller meals – Instead of the usual rule of eating three square meals a day, eat smaller meals more frequently on days when the sun turns up the heat. Also, avoid high-protein foods which can increase metabolic heat. **Warning signs:** Warning signs of an oncoming heat-related illness could include excessive sweating, leg cramps, flushed skin, nausea and vomiting, dizziness, headache and rapid pulse. If these occur, Dr. Schmidt suggests getting out of the heat and drinking liquids. If you don’t feel better soon, call your doctor or visit your local emergency department. “Heat stroke can cause death or permanent disability and requires immediate emergency medical treatment,” said Dr. Schmidt about the serious condition which can cause damage to the brain and other vital organs. Warning signs of heat stroke can vary, but may include the following: body temperature of 103° For higher, dizziness, throbbing headache, nausea, confusion, a rapid, strong pulse, and in extremely critical cases, unconsciousness. “In addition to taking care of yourself from the ill-effects of the heat, don’t forget

to check on elderly relatives and neighbors several times a day to make sure they are safe and free from any signs of heat exhaustion or heat stroke,” said Dr. Schmidt. **Kids in hot cars** Dr. Schmidt also reminds parents and caregivers that hot weather and vehicles can be a deadly combination for kids. “Children are at serious risk for heat stroke when left alone even for a few minutes in a closed vehicle or even in one with the window left slightly open,” he said. **Sleeping in the heat** “Even for those who do not suffer from a sleep disorder, getting to sleep can be more of a challenge in New England during the summer months,” said Dr. Karin Johnson, director, Sleep Lab, Baystate Medical Center. “There have been studies done on exactly what room temperatures are beneficial to our sleep. In general, many cite between 60 and 67 degrees Fahrenheit as ideal with temperatures exceeding 75 degrees Fahrenheit and below 54 degrees Fahrenheit as disruptive to our much needed sleep,” said Dr. Johnson. The National Sleep Foundation offers the following tips to help both young and old sleep better in uncomfortable, hot weather, especially when air conditioning isn’t an option: 1. Use a fan to keep the air circulating. 2. Close the blinds to keep out sunlight. Also, keep the windows closed if the temperature outside is much hotter than inside. Open the windows at night if the temperature is cooler outside than in your house. 3. Heat rises. So, sleep downstairs in the blistering heat. 4. If you do not have an air conditioner, and fans just aren’t doing the trick, consider asking family or friends who do have an air conditioner if you can stay with them for a few nights. 5. Other options include sleeping outdoors under protection for mosquitoes and other insects, or during an extreme heatwave some communities may open cooling centers in schools or public places that are air-conditioned. 6. Water is a great cooling agent and taking a cold shower or bath before bed may help. 7. Wear light bedclothes and light pajamas. There are pajamas made from materials that wick away sweat, meaning the fabric pulls moisture from the body to the exterior of the clothing item where it can evaporate more easily. For more information on Baystate Health, visit baystatehealth.org.

BHN Clinic for the treatment of substance use disorders opens

SPRINGFIELD — Behavioral Health Network (BHN) as of June 1 started a new outpatient clinic for the treatment of substance use disorders (SUD) on its Liberty Street campus. The clinic offers medically supervised methadone in addition to suboxone, vivitrol, other FDA approved medications and counseling. BHN offers a full continuum of care and services in Springfield for those in addiction recovery. Recovery programs include acute treatment (detox), residential recovery homes, clinical stabilization, outpatient treatment and Driver Alcohol Education services. The new clinic will serve those who have started medication treatment for their addiction in other healthcare facilities or can be a first step in starting medication treatment for their addiction. FDA-approved medications in combination with counseling and behavioral therapies will provide a “whole-patient” approach to the treatment of substance use disorders. The new clinic is open seven days per week and is located at 395 Liberty Street, sharing building space with other BHN programs. The campus also houses a crisis center, the Living Room, other 24-hour treatment programs, an adult outpatient clinic, care coordination and outreach services and administrative offices. According to BHN President and CEO, Kathy Wilson, “We are filling the gaps in treatment and expect that this clinic will help a substantial number of people who are finding the substance use disorder program a lifesaver as they continue on their road to recovery.” Medical Director for substance use disorders at BHN, Dr. Ruth Potee said, “The data show better outcomes with the use of medication to treat substance use disorders. We have nearly 50 years of experience using methadone to save lives in the United States. BHN has a full scope of services to help people who struggle with addiction.” BHN has been providing behavioral health services to children and families in Western Massachusetts since 1938. The agency provides community-based services that include innovative, integrated whole-health models as well as traditional clinical and outpatient and therapeutic services, day treatment, addiction services, crisis intervention and residential supports.



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Business ◀

Bacon Wilson announces Erin R. Chrzanowski as new associate

REGION – Bacon Wilson is pleased to announce that Attorney Erin R. Chrzanowski has joined the firm. Attorney Chrzanowski is an associate and a member of the firm’s business and corporate practice group, where she works on matters related to commercial real estate and financing. In addition, Attorney Chrzanowski was recently elected to serve on the board of the Revitalize Community Development Corporation in Springfield. Prior to joining Bacon Wilson, Erin attended Syracuse University College of Law, earning her J.D. in 2019, and the University of Massachusetts Amherst’s Isenberg School of Manage-



Erin R. Chrzanowski

ment, earning her B.B.A. Cum Laude in 2017. She is licensed to practice in both Massachusetts and New York. Founded in 1895, Bacon Wilson, P.C. is one of the largest firms in the Pioneer Valley, with 43 lawyers, and approximately 60 paralegals, administrative assistants, and support staff. From five locations – Springfield, Amherst, Hadley, Northampton and Westfield – Bacon Wilson represents clients throughout Western Massachusetts and Northern Connecticut with comprehensive legal services. For more information, visit www.baconwilson.com.

Eastern States Exposition summer weekends at Storowton Village

SPRINGFIELD – Eastern States Exposition introduces Big E Summer Weekends at Storowton Village, a place to dine, shop, sip and satisfy your sweet tooth on the grounds of The Big E. The Big E Bakery, Storowton Tavern, Sam Adams Brew Garden and Storowton Village Museum and Gift Shop have come together to create a safe, social distancing environment that will allow people to enjoy an afternoon or evening out and support local businesses. It all begins Friday, July 17.

Learn all about this summer’s events by visiting www.thebige.com/summer-weekends.

Eugene J. Cassidy, president and CEO of ESE, said, “The Exposition is pleased to showcase some of our iconic products and serve as an incubator for our local partners to get back into business after a long hiatus from being able to conduct their operations. We invite the support of our community and our community at large to help us bring life back to the grounds and continue to serve as an economic driver for the region.”

The Big E Bakery Drive-Up Window

EJ Dean and his family, from Salisbury Beach, have operated The Big E Bakery since 2018. They have become residents of Agawam, and with each year they try to feature something new. They utilize local companies, purchasing products, supplies and ingredients from area businesses.

The successful Taste of The Big E food preview event in June proved the demand for The Big E’s iconic cream puffs and eclairs. The Big E Bakery will be open weekends so fans can purchase Big

E Cream Puffs and Eclairs all summer long, a first for the Bakery that opened in 2002. Drive up to the New England Center to order singles, three-packs and six-packs for aspecial occasion, surprise desert or a tasty treat after work. The bakery will be open Saturdays and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

For more information and online ordering details, visit www.thebige.com/thebigbakery.

Sam Adams Brew Garden

The fourth generation operating Ed-die Shore Enterprises brings us the Brew Garden. Their affiliation with Eastern States dates back to the golden years of hockey in the Coliseum. They have operated concessions on the grounds, including the Brew Garden, for more than 60 years.

The Sam Adams Brew Garden, a popular favorite at The Big E, will be open for outdoor dining this summer. Relax and enjoy your favorite Sam Adams brews paired with a menu of appetizers, burgers, pizzas, salads and more. The Brew Garden is located on the Avenue of States behind the Storowton Village Gift Shop. Summer hours are Fridays from 4 to 9 p.m., Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sundays from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. For full menus and more, visit www.thebige.com/samadamsbrewgarden.

Storowton Tavern

The Calvanese family, of East Longmeadow, has operated Storowton Tavern since 2003. Serving the finest, locally-sourced foods, the restaurant and banquet house have been the site of generations of family occasions.

In the mood for hearty New England

fare? Stop by Storowton Tavern, just steps away from the Village Green, for indoor and outdoor dining options. Tavern lunch and dinner hours are Tuesday to Thursday from 11 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.; Friday and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.; with Sunday BBQ Brunch from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and dinner service from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

For full menus, cocktail hour information, and patio music lineup, visit www.storowton.com.

Storowton Village Museum and Gift Shop

Storowton Village Museum will be open for timed-ticket historic house tours on Tuesdays to Thursdays and family activity blocks on Fridays and Saturdays this summer, through August 29. The museum will also offer ticketed ghost tours on Fridays in August. Guests can visit the newly remodeled Storowton Village Gift Shop in the Phillips House, filled with handpicked items for home, garden, fashion, kids and more. There are sections for New England-made maple products, hand-forged blacksmith items, gifts like “The Big E Book,” the Eastern States Exposition Centennial history book, and official Big E tartan products that include clutches, coin purses, tissue holders and keychain wristlets. The Gift Shop is open Tuesdays through Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday hours are extended to 7 p.m., with extra shopping hours to be added in August. Learn more at www.storowtonvillage.com.

For more information on Eastern States Exposition and its events and activities, visit www.TheBigE.com, join our mailing list and connect with us on social media.

Springfield not re-opening Valleybike share in 2020

REGION – Valleybike, the pioneer valley’s three-year-old electric bike sharing system with stations across six cities and towns (Amherst, Northampton, Easthampton, South Hadley, Holyoke, and Springfield) including stations on the UMass-Amherst campus, will not be opening this year in the city of Springfield.

Upon the recommendation of Health and Human Services Commissioner Helen Caulton-Harris to Mayor Domenic J. Sarno, the decision was made out of an abundance of caution to help mitigate the potential community spread of the novel coronavirus.

Concerns about possible spread of the coronavirus are the reason behind this difficult decision. Hampden county (6,883 cases/100,000) has seen much higher rates of COVID-19 infections than Hampshire county (985 cases/100,000), with the numbers of infections still rising in the last two weeks. Hampden county is experiencing the commonwealth’s highest death rate, with 141 out of 100,000 people dying from the disease.

As of July 1, the city of Springfield had reported 2,833 infections, for a rate of 1,789/100,000. In Springfield 16.44% of people tested are testing positive for COVID-19 compared to a rate of 12.17 for the whole commonwealth.

Pan-Mass Challenge re-imagines 2020 ride

BOSTON – The Pan-Mass Challenge, a bike-a-thon that raises more money for charity than any other single athletic fundraising event in the country, is adapting its 2020 ride to maintain its commitment to Dana-Farber Cancer Institute while prioritizing the health and safety of its riders and volunteers.

The organization’s traditional ride, which typically includes 12 routes spanning 25 to 192 miles over the first weekend of every August, will be transformed into an interactive experience on Aug. 1. The “Re-imagined PMC” will bring together thousands of riders, volunteers, donors and supporters from their hometowns around the globe to celebrate the spirit of PMC weekend while making an unparalleled impact on the fight against cancer.

As Dana-Farber’s largest single contributor, accounting for 57 percent of its Jimmy Fund’s annual revenue, the organization remains committed to raising critical funding for lifesaving cancer research, treatment and patient care and maintaining its 100 percent pass-through rate for rider-raised dollars this year. The PMC, widely regarded as a pioneer in athletic fundraising, is now trailblazing during these unprecedented times with a re-imagined event that will evoke the sense of camaraderie and community synonymous with PMC Ride Weekend. In partnership with its presenting sponsor, the Red Sox Foundation, and its media partners, CBS Boston (WBZ-TV) and WROR, PMC 2020 Re-imagined will come to life with pre-taped, as well as real-time, content.

“Coming together the first weekend

of every August is a beloved tradition for thousands of PMC participants. While we’re unable to move forward with our ride safely in the same way we have over the past 40 years, we cannot and will not let our community or Dana-Farber down,” said Billy Starr, PMC founder and executive director. “Our mission to support Dana-Farber in the fight against cancer is more important than ever. And in re-imagining what our event can be, we hope to inspire even more participation from those joining us at home.”

PMC 2020 Re-imagined will include many of the beloved activities that riders, volunteers, donors and spectators partake in during a traditional PMC Ride Weekend – complete with fun twists and unique virtual adaptations that make it easy to participate from home or their neighborhood, including:

- PMC 2020 Re-imagined Opening Ceremonies on Friday, July 31
- An official “starting line” to symbolize the commencement of the 2020 PMC on Saturday, Aug. 1
- The PMC Pedal Partner Tent, in partnership with Dana-Farber’s Jimmy Fund Clinic
- Entertainment and celebration at Massachusetts Maritime Academy’s quad
- A global “Living Proof” toast to honor those that are currently undergoing, or have undergone, cancer treatment

“We are incredibly grateful for the PMC’s unwavering dedication to Dana-Farber. Their creative thinking in rallying their community around an event that provides essential funding for our institution and patients is a shining ex-

ample of agility and commitment. Cancer doesn’t stop even during these difficult days. PMC dollars are critical to support the world-class cancer care and additional resources we provide our patients and their families, and we are especially thankful for this seed gift and the ongoing support,” said Dr. Laurie H. Glimcher, president and CEO of Dana-Farber.

PMC 2020 Re-imagined will build upon the organization’s impressive efforts to support Dana-Farber as the institute navigates the implications of the coronavirus pandemic. Today, the PMC released \$4 million of funds raised thus far this year to act as seed funding for Dana-Farber’s COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund, which supports patients currently receiving care. In 2019, the PMC donated \$63 million to Dana-Farber, the largest financial gift ever received by the institute, helping fund lifesaving cancer research, treatment and patient care efforts.

To commit to the cause or make a financial contribution, visit www.pmc.org or call (800) WE-CYCLE. Connect with #PMC2020 on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn.

The Pan-Mass Challenge is a bike-a-thon that today raises more money for charity than any other single athletic fundraising event in the world. The 41st PMC will take place on Aug. 1. The PMC was founded in 1980 by Starr, who remains the event’s executive director, an annual cyclist and a fundraiser. The PMC has since raised \$717 million for adult and pediatric patient care and cancer research at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute through

the Jimmy Fund. The event donates 100 percent of every rider-raised dollar directly to the cause, generating 57 percent of the Jimmy Fund’s annual revenue as Dana-Farber’s single largest contributor.

The PMC has successfully melded support from committed cyclists, volunteers, corporate sponsors and individual contributors, all of which are essential to the PMC’s goal and model: to attain maximum fundraising efficiency while increasing its annual gift. The PMC’s hope and aspiration is to provide Dana-Farber’s doctors and researchers with the necessary resources to discover cures for all cancers. For more information on the Pan-Mass Challenge, visit www.pmc.org.

About Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute is one of the world’s leading centers of cancer research and treatment. It is ranked in the top 5 of U.S. News and World Report’s Best Hospitals for both adult and pediatric cancer care. Dana-Farber’s mission is to reduce the burden of cancer through scientific inquiry, clinical care, education, community engagement, and advocacy. We provide the latest in cancer care for adults through Dana-Farber/Brigham and Women’s Cancer Center and for children through Dana-Farber/Boston Children’s Cancer and Blood Disorders Center. Dana-Farber is dedicated to an equal balance between cancer research and care, translating the results of discovery into new treatments for patients locally and around the world.

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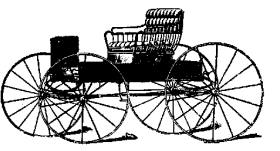
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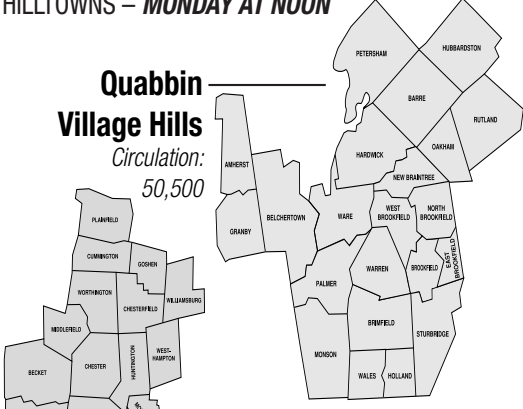
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Crafting remotely

With craft fairs canceled, creators go online

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

REGION – In similar fashion to most every gathering, craft fairs across the state are being cancelled or postponed because of COVID-19. To prevent losses and ensure that all crafters are able to sell their products, a local woman has created a potential solution.

Donalyn Gross, of Longmeadow, created the Western Massachusetts Crafters Directory to link clients with the favorite crafters this summer and fall. The directory currently lists the contact information for more than 200 crafters and is steadily growing.

“Over the years, I collected everybody’s business cards and told them to send me a list of all the fairs they know. Now, I put them together, made a list and

sent it out to everybody,” said Gross.

Crafters must pay an annual fee of \$10 to be added to the directory, and public access is entirely free. Gross, an avid craft fair participant for the past two decades, sells maple pecan and maple walnut syrup toppings and typically attends a dozen craft fairs each autumn.

From September to December, traditional weekend craft fairs are prevalent all throughout the region. This fall, the tradition will likely be broken, but Gross is cautiously optimistic that her directory will make a difference.

“This year with the virus, I’m nervous about what will happen with the fall fairs. It’s our busy season,” she said. “What happens if there aren’t any fairs? We want people to be able to get a copy of this directory and say, ‘Oh, here’s that person that I’ve bought stuff from before, and here’s the contact information.’ They can contact the crafters directly.”

Gross noted that many craft-

ers are small business owners and rely on the income gained during craft fairs each fall. She also pointed out that many of the products have already been created and are ready for sale.

“When you’re stuck in the house during the pandemic, what are you going to do? You’re going to make more stuff,” said Gross. “There are hundreds of people who do their Christmas shopping and holiday shopping at these fairs. We all have tons and tons of merchandise. I have 14 cases of jars in my living room right now.”

Emphasizing that crafters do not want to lose their customers, Gross reiterated that items can be picked up as soon as tomorrow. In addition to the crafters’ contact information and locations, her directory lists product descriptions and times of availability.

“I want to get this out to the public as much as I can. I’m telling people, ‘Email me, and I will send it to you right away.’ For crafters who want to get on the



Courtesy photo

Donalyn Gross, of Longmeadow, created the Western Massachusetts Crafters Directory to link clients with the favorite crafters this summer and fall. Pictured here are samples of her pecan and maple walnut syrup toppings.

list, email me, and I’ll give you the information,” she said.

While the directory is not yet online, Gross will be receptive to assistance in the endeavor. She admits that she is not a computer person but does realize the benefits of a potential website and

will accept the help of someone willing to give it.

Gross can be contacted at Goodendings@hotmail.com.

Dalton Zbierski is a staff writer and can be reached at dzbierski@turley.com.

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